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Implementation of the resolutions of the United Nations

Maintenance of international security – prevention of the violent disintegration of States

Letter dated 1 July 1998 from the Permanent Representative of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I am authorized to send this letter to inform you of the policy of the Government of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea on the national reunification on the occasion of the anniversary of the publication of the 4 July "North-South Joint Statement", 26 years ago.

It was a historic event that the north and the south of Korea agreed on the three principles of national reunification of independence, peaceful reunification and great national unity and made it public as the "North-South Joint Statement".

I should be grateful if you would have the text of the present letter and the policy of the Government of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea on national reunification attached herewith circulated as a document of the General Assembly under agenda items 55 and 65 of the preliminary list.

(*Signed*) **Li** Hyong Chol
Ambassador
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Annex

National reunification policy of the Government of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea

The reunification of our fatherland, divided by the foreign forces at the end of the Second World War, is the greatest national task for the Korean people and must not be delayed any longer.

It is only reunification between the north and south that can guarantee a complete and durable peace on the Korean peninsula.

1. Proposals advanced by the Government of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea for national reunification

Ever since the division of the country by the foreign forces, the Government of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea has advanced the reunification line of one Korea and worked hard to seek a peaceful solution to the national reunification by the efforts of the Korean people themselves.

At his meeting with the south Korean delegates to the north on 3 May 1972, the great leader of our people Comrade Kim Il Sung propounded the three principles of independence, peaceful reunification and great national unity as the fundamental stand and method to settle the national reunification problem by a national effort in keeping with the desire and interests of our nation.

The three principles of national reunification are as follows:

First, national reunification should be achieved independently, without reliance on outside forces and free from their interference.

Second, national reunification should be achieved by peaceful means, without resorting to taking up arms against the other.

Third, great national unity as one nation should be promoted by transcending differences in ideas, ideals and systems.

The three principles of national reunification were agreed upon between the north and south and proclaimed solemnly to the public at home and abroad through the historic "North-South Joint Statement" of 4 July 1972, which enjoyed a unanimous welcome by all of the United Nations Member States at the twenty-eighth session of the General Assembly in November 1973.

The three principles of national reunification of independence, peaceful reunification and great national unity has become a major programme for the achievement of reunification and has been recognized internationally.

It is the reality of the Korean peninsula that different systems have existed in the north and south and neither side has been willing to give up its own system.

Such being the situation, the most reasonable way to achieve national reunification is to form a unified State in accordance with the three principles of national reunification set out in the 4 July "North-South Joint Statement", which transcend ideas and systems.

That is how we can seek the common requirements and interests of our nation from the principle of coexistence, so that neither side is conquering or being conquered by the other and that no side is overpowering or being overpowered by the other.

The great leader of our people Comrade Kim Il Sung advanced the proposal for founding the "Democratic Confederal Republic of Koryo" as a unified national State following a confederation formula, based on one nation, one State, two systems and two governments, at the sixth Congress of the Workers' Party of Korea on 10 October 1980.

The substance of the proposal for founding the Democratic Confederal Republic of Koryo is that the country should be reunified by founding a confederal republic through the establishment of a unified national government, on condition that the north and the south recognize and tolerate each other's ideas and systems, a government in which they exercise regional autonomy respectively with equal rights and duties.

The proposal for national reunification through confederacy is a realistic reunification method which corresponds to the trends in the international situation.

On 1 July last year, Hong Kong, with its own capitalist system, was turned over to socialist China. This shows that we can resolve the reunification problem based on the principle of retaining two systems within one country.

If the country is reunified through the proposed confederation formula, the arms race between the north and south will be discontinued and the Korean peninsula will be converted into a peace and buffer zone. We will remove the biggest flashpoint of war in the world, thereby opening up a decisive phase to ensure peace in Asia and the rest of the world.

2. The position of the Government of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea on North-South relations

The Government of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea has remained consistent in its stand for improved relations between the north and south through dialogue and negotiation.

It was through the positive initiatives of the Government of our Republic that various rounds of dialogue between the north and south were held in the past and eight rounds of the north-south high-level talks proceeded in Pyongyang and Seoul, respectively, from September 1990 to September 1992.

The result was the adoption and effectuation of the February 1992 "Agreement on Reconciliation, Non-aggression, and Exchanges and Cooperation between the South and the North" based on reconfirmation of the three principles of national reunification.

However, the north-south dialogues have yet to bear any results and the north-south Agreement, which was made after a long suspension of talks, has failed to be implemented. This is attributable to the south Korean authorities which commit themselves to the policy depending on outside forces and take a confrontational stand against the north.

The experience illustrates the fact that the north-south dialogue must not be the monopoly of a few men in authority or of a particular class or section, but must be a wide-ranging, nationwide dialogue that can pool the opinions of all political parties, groups and social sections.

The great leader Comrade Kim Jong Il, General Secretary of the Workers' Party of Korea, made it clear on 18 April this year that the principle of national independence should be maintained for the improved relations between the north and south and that the north-south dialogue should be continued, on all accounts, as the one forum for national unity and reunification.

It is only when we adhere to the principle of national independence that we can defend the national rights and interests and shape the nation's destiny independently, in keeping with the will and demand of our nation.

Calling for independence and north-south reconciliation and unity while pursuing the policy of dependence on foreign forces is nothing but empty talk.

There can't be any justified need to have dialogue which will make the divided status permanent. Furthermore, there is not any absolute need to conduct contacts and exchanges of visits which will serve only for confrontation.

In order to improve the north-south relations, the present south Korean authorities should, among other things, make an about-face in policy by giving up the policy depending on foreign forces and exercising the policy of national independence.

What is essential in realizing free exchanges of visits, contacts and wide-ranging dialogues between the north and south is to get rid of all physical and systematic barriers, including the "concrete wall", the symbol of division, and the "National Security Law" in south Korea.

The Government of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea is prepared to meet, at any time, people from upper classes in power, figures from the Government party and the opposition party, big capitalists and Generals in south Korea to have open-hearted consultations over the reunification problem if they value the common interests of the nation and want the reunification of the country.

The United Nations should have a correct understanding about the reunification problem of Korea and stand in favour of the earliest reunification of Korea through the three principles of independence, peaceful reunification and great national unity, which were agreed upon between the north and south and recognized internationally.